

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

5 1. An expansion device having a main body provided with a mounting portion, in which a readout device is mountable and enabled to read information processing data from a storage medium storing the information processing data and to read sound reproducing data from a storage medium storing at least the sound reproducing data, said expansion device being connected to a host device and used for transmission of data between said host device and said data readout device, said expansion device comprising:

audio circuits for processing the sound reproducing data;

15 a first power input portion for being supplied with source power for said expansion device from a power supply for said host device; and

20 a second power input portion for being supplied with source power for said expansion device from a second power supply other than said power supply for said host device,

25 wherein operations of said audio circuits and said readout device are enabled by supplying source power thereto from said second power input portion when no source power is supplied to said first power input portion.

30 2. The expansion device according to claim 1, wherein an operating portion for controlling an operation of said readout device is provided in said main body.

3. The expansion device according to claim 1, wherein said mounting portion is adapted to selectively and detachably accommodate a plurality of kinds of expansion units other said readout device.

35 4. The expansion device according to claim 1, wherein said second power supply is an external DC power supply.

5. The expansion device according to claim 1, wherein said second power supply is a battery built

thereinto.

6. The expansion device according to claim 1, wherein said host device is a notebook personal computer.

7. The expansion device according to claim 3, wherein said plurality of kinds of expansion units are a CD-ROM drive, a floppy disk drive, a DVD drive, a memory card drive, and a hard disk drive.

8. The expansion device according to claim 5, wherein a voltage of said battery is set in such a way as to be lower than a power supply voltage to be supplied to said first power input portion.

9. The expansion device according to claim 7, wherein said CD-ROM drive has both a decoding circuit for decoding digital data and a decoding circuit for decoding analog data and wherein switching between a digital data signal and an analog music signal is automatically performed according to a kind of said storage medium.

10. The expansion device according to claim 9, wherein said readout device indicates a playing track number and a piece number in a display device of said operating portion when said storage medium is an audio disk.

11. The expansion device according to claim 5, wherein said battery is a chargeable battery.

12. The expansion device according to claim 1, wherein said host device is connected to said expansion device by a cable.

13. The expansion device according to claim 1, wherein said host device is connected to said expansion device by connecting a connector provided in said host device directly to a connector provided on said expansion device.

14. The expansion device according to claim 1, wherein a connector is installed in said mounting portion provided in said main body, wherein a corresponding connector is provided in said readout device, and wherein said readout device is connected to said main body only

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16. The expansion device according to claim 1, wherein said second power input portion is provided in said first power input portion.

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